

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

CHRISTINA M. EPLEY,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JO ANNE BARNHART,  
Commissioner of Social Security,

Defendant.

3:06-CV-0199-BES (RAM)

**ORDER CONCERNING REVIEW  
OF SOCIAL SECURITY CASES**

The court notes that the instant case involves judicial review of administrative action by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, denying Plaintiff's claim for disability benefits under the Social Security Act.

The court recognizes that many of these cases have a number of factors in common:

1. Such cases rarely, if ever, require any proceedings in the nature of a trial. Instead, these cases are usually resolved by cross-motions to reverse or remand and to affirm the Secretary's decision.
2. Sometimes Plaintiff submits new medical reports to the court in support of a request for remand at such a late date in the proceedings as to cause an unnecessary and undesirable delay in the rendering of a decision by the court.
3. The transcript of the evidence adduced at the administrative hearing frequently contains the words, "inaudible" or "illegible" in some places, and the administrative record sometimes contains documents which are illegible. These parts of the administrative record may or may not relate to the question of whether the Secretary's decision is supported by substantial evidence.

4. These cases are automatically assigned to the United States Magistrate Judge for review and recommendation to the United States District Judge.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:**

1. In the event Plaintiff intends to request a remand of this case on the basis of new medical evidence, Plaintiff shall file within thirty (30) days of the filing of this Order, a motion to remand in this court based on new medical evidence, with a copy of the evidence attached to the motion, and shall serve a copy of the motion and medical evidence on the:

United States Attorney  
100 West Liberty Street, Suite 600  
Reno, Nevada 89501

2. In the event Plaintiff serves a motion for remand on the basis of new medical evidence on the Defendant, pursuant to the provisions of this Order, the Defendant shall have thirty (30) days from the date of service of such motion to file either a notice of voluntary remand of the case or points and authorities in opposition to Plaintiff's motion. Plaintiff may file a reply to Defendant's opposition within twenty (20) days.

3. If Plaintiff seeks remand for consideration of new medical evidence, the motion shall include a statement of reasons why the new evidence was not incorporated into the record at an earlier stage. [Under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) remand for reconsideration of new evidence will not be granted unless the evidence is new and material and there is a showing of good cause for failure to incorporate the evidence into the record at an earlier stage.]

4. In the event Plaintiff does not file a motion to remand on the basis of new medical evidence, the Plaintiff shall, within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Order, file with this court a motion for reversal and/or remand.

5. Whenever Plaintiff files a motion for reversal and/or remand, which includes issues based on the administrative record, Plaintiff's motion shall include:

(a) A specification of each and every condition or ailment, or combination thereof, that allegedly renders Plaintiff disabled and is allegedly supported by evidence contained in the administrative record.

1 (b) A complete summary of all medical evidence in the record that supports  
2 Plaintiff's claim of disability due to each condition or ailment specified in subparagraph 5(a) above,  
3 with precise references to the applicable portions of the record. This summary shall not include  
4 medical evidence unrelated to the conditions or ailments upon which Plaintiff's claim or claims of  
5 disability are based. It shall be sufficient compliance with this subparagraph if Plaintiff shall stipulate  
6 that the Administrative Law Judge fairly and accurately summarized the medical evidence contained  
7 in the record.

8 (c) A complete summary of all other evidence adduced at the administrative  
9 hearing that supports Plaintiff's claim of disability due to each condition or ailment specified in  
10 subparagraph 5(a) above, with precise references to the applicable portions of the record. It shall be  
11 sufficient compliance with this subparagraph if Plaintiff shall stipulate that the Administrative Law  
12 Judge fairly and accurately summarized the evidence adduced at the administrative hearing.

13 (d) With respect to each condition or ailment specified in subparagraph 5(a) above,  
14 a complete but concise statement as to why the record does not contain substantial evidence to support  
15 the Defendant's conclusion that Plaintiff is not disabled by each such condition or ailment, or  
16 combination thereof.

17 6. If Defendant has not filed a notice of voluntary remand and the issues in question relate  
18 to the administrative record, the Defendant, within thirty (30) days after being served with Plaintiff's  
19 motion for reversal and/or remand, shall file a cross-motion to affirm which will be considered an  
20 opposition to Plaintiff's motion. This motion shall include:

21 (a) With respect to each disabling condition or ailment specified by Plaintiff, a  
22 complete summary of all medical evidence in the record that the Defendant contends constitutes  
23 substantial evidence to support the administrative determination that Plaintiff is not disabled due to  
24 such condition or ailment or combination thereof. This summary shall not include medical evidence  
25 unrelated to conditions or ailments upon which the Plaintiff's claim or claims of disability are based.  
26 It shall be sufficient compliance with this subparagraph if the Defendant shall stipulate that the  
27 Administrative Law Judge fairly and accurately summarized the medical evidence contained in the  
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1 record.

2 (b) With respect to each disabling condition or ailment specified by Plaintiff, a  
3 complete summary of all testimony adduced at the administrative hearing, including the  
4 Administrative Law Judge's findings, if any, concerning the credibility of witnesses, which the  
5 Defendant contends constitutes substantial evidence to support the administrative determination that  
6 Plaintiff is not disabled due to such condition or ailment, or combination thereof. It shall be sufficient  
7 compliance with this subparagraph if the Defendant shall stipulate that the Administrative Law Judge  
8 fairly and accurately summarized the testimony adduced at the administrative hearing.

9 (c) A statement as to whether there are any inaccuracies in the summaries filed by  
10 Plaintiff in response to paragraphs 5(b) and 5(c) of this Order. If the Defendant believes Plaintiff's  
11 summaries are inaccurate, Defendant shall set forth what additions or corrections are required (with  
12 appropriate references to the record) in order to make the summaries accurate.

13 (d) The lay definitions of all medical terms contained in the record necessary to be  
14 understood in order to determine whether the Defendant's decision is supported by substantial  
15 evidence.

16 7. The motions filed by Plaintiff and Defendant pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of this  
17 Order, respectively, shall also contain appropriate points and authorities dealing with the specific legal  
18 issues involved in this case, rather than principles of law applicable to Social Security cases in general.

19 8. Plaintiff shall be deemed to have acceded to the accuracy of the summaries supplied by  
20 the Defendant in response to subparagraphs 6(a) and 6(b) of this order, and to all definitions of  
21 medical terms supplied by the Defendant in respect to subparagraph 6(d) of this Order, unless within  
22 twenty (20) days after being served with Defendant's motion to affirm Plaintiff shall file and serve a  
23 document setting forth:

24 (a) In what manner the summaries are inaccurate;

25 (b) What additions or corrections are required (with appropriate references to the  
26 record) in order to make the summaries accurate; and/or

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1 (c) Any definitions of the medical terms that Plaintiff contends are more accurate  
2 that the definitions supplied by the Defendant.

3 9. The motions filed by both Plaintiff and Defendant shall also contain the following:

4 (a) A statement as to whether the transcript of the administrative hearing can be  
5 adequately comprehended in spite of the fact that such transcript may contain the words "inaudible"  
6 or "unintelligible" in one or more places, and specifying each page, if any, in which testimony relating  
7 to the particular issues of this case cannot be adequately comprehended.

8 (b) A specification of each page in the administrative record that is partially or  
9 totally illegible, and a statement whether each such illegible page contains information relevant to an  
10 understanding of any issue presented in this case.

11 10. Oral argument shall be deemed waived and the case shall stand submitted unless  
12 argument is ordered by the court or requested, pursuant to Local Rule 78-2, by one of the parties  
13 within ten (10) days following the filing of the last document required by this court.

14 11. Failure of a party to file a motion or points and authorities required by this Order may  
15 result in dismissal of the action or reversal of the decision of the Secretary of Health and Human  
16 Services, as may be appropriate.

17 DATED: August 2, 2006.



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19 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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